

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 FBO-02 /088 W

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P R 071000Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2092

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, LY

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF LIBYAN COMPLICITY
IN SUDAN'S ABORTIVE COUP

1. EVER SINCE FAILURE JULY 2-3 COUP ATTEMPT, GOS
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND MEDIS STORIES HAVE FEATURED
LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT WITH ALL PHASES OF OPERATION EXCEPT
ACTUAL FIGHTING. EVEN HERE, IT WAS SAID ONE OR TWO
LIBYANS WERE CAPTURED WITH REBEL ELEMENTS,' IT IS NOT
NECESSARY TO ACCEPT ANY OR ALL SPECIFIC SUDANESE
CHARGES AT FACE VALUE IN ORDER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE
BASIC FACT THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT AGAIN REVEALS HEAVY
LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT BEYOND ITS BORDERS. PAST
ASSOCIATION OF GOL WITH SUDANESE IDENTIFIED IN THE
FIGHTING, PRESENCE NUMBERS OF NON-SUDANESE FLUSH
WITH FUNDS IN POCKETS, IDENTIFICATION OF MATERIAL
WITH LIBYAN OR SUSPECT MARKINGS, PLUS OTHER SPECIFICS
MENTIONED IN OUR SITREPS, ALL POINT TO MAJOR LIBYAN
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FINANCIAL A LOGISTIC SUPPORT PLUS SIGNIFICANT

INFUSION FROM ABROAD OF TRAINED NON-LIBYAN ELEMENTS,
INCLUDING ANTI-NIMEIRI SUDANESE EXILEAUM

2. IT IS ALLEGED THAT COUP ATTEMPT COULD NOT HAVE
BEEN MOUNTED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL SUPPORT. THIS,
OF COURSE, IS POSSIBLE BUT EVIDENCE IS LACKING AND
KNOWN FACTS INDICATE OTHERWISE. GRADUAL INFILTRATION
SMALL GROUPS OF NON-SUDANESE INTO THE KHARTOUM AREA
IN RECENT MONTHS WOULD HAVE POSED LITTLE PROBLEM IN
THIS PFWYGLOT METROPOLIS. BUT SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT OF
MAJOR ARMS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFICULT
CONCEAL UNLESS, AS SUDANESE CHARE, IT DID IN FACT
COME DIRECTLY ACROSS DESERT FROM LIBYA IN FINAL PRE-
COUP DAYS. SUCH A TRIP WOULD HAVE INVOLVED MOVEMENT
PERHAPS 50 VEHICLES OVER 600-700 MILES OF OPEN DESERT.
THIS WOULD APPEAR CLEARLY WITHIN LIBYAN CAPABILITY
PARTICULARLY SINCE CONVOY (OR CONVOYS) WOULD HAVE
ENCOUNTERED NO SUDANESE POPULATION CENTERS OR GOS
CONTROL POINTS, IF ROUTE WAS DUE SOUTHEAST FROM LIBYAN

BORDER, UNTIL MUTUALLY ON OUTSKIRTS OF OMDURMAN.

GOS FAILURE COVER THIS CONTINGENCY REPRESENTS
MAJOR BLKRDER ON PART SUDANESE SECURITY. HOWEVER,
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BELIEVE, AS SOME HERE ARE NOW
ALLEGING, THAT THERE WERE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF
THIS MOVEMENT WHICH WERE INOJKNTIONALLY SUPRESSED BY
DISLOYAL SUDANESE.

3. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
NO MASS LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN REBEL UPRISING. LAST-
MINUTE HIRING AMONG MINORITY POOR WERE (E.G. WESTERN
SUDANESE, CHADIANS AND NIGEROIS) NO DOUBT AUGMENTED
SIZE OF COUP FORCE, KOGUT CIVILIAN POPULATION REMAINED
IN GENERAL INDOORS AND APATHETIC THROUGHOUT STRUGGLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO01979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0519
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760785/aaaacwhg.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>; APPROVED <10 Mar 2006 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF LIBYAN COMPLICITY IN SUDAN'S ABORTIVE COUP
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006